

Urban District of Heckmondwike.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1919,

BY

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Summary of Statistics for 1919.

Area of Urban District (in acres)	696
Population at Census of 1911	9017
Registrar General's estimate of Civil Population for 1919,	
for calculation of death rate	8839
birth rate	9208
Number of families or separate occupiers at Census of	
1911	2270
Tenements with more than two occupants per room,	
Census, 1911	214
Population of same	1436
Proportion per cent. to population in private families ...	16.1
Average number of persons per house. Figures not reliable.	
Density of population per acre. ditto.	
Number of Births (Males 83)	
(Females 72)	155
Birth Rate per 1,000 living	16.8
Number of Illegitimate Births (Males 3)	
(Females 4)	7
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000	45
Number of Deaths including 28 residents who died out-	
side Heckmondwike (Males 89)	
(Females 57)	146
Nett Death Rate per 1,000 living	16.5
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births registered	77.4
Tuberculosis Death Rate (all forms) per 1,000 of popula-	
tion	1.3
Phthisis Death Rate per 1,000 of population	0.9
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000 of population	0.3
Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 of population	
(excluding Phthisis)	2.9
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 of population	1.2
Number of Cases of Infectious Disease notified under	
Infectious Disease Notification Act and L.G.Bd.	
Orders	196
Number of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified ...	9
Number of Cases of other forms of Tuberculosis notified ...	9
Rateable Value of District (Poor Rate) £45,582 5 0	
(District Rate) £43,506 8 9	
	<hr/>
	£89,088 13 9
	<hr/>

Rate of 1d. in £ produces £371 approx.

Rates for 1919 total, 13s. in £.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

POPULATION.

	Census, 1911.		Year 1919.
Whole District.	Pop. per.	Density	Registrar
	sq. mile.	per acre.	General's
9017	8291	12.9	estimate for
Area in acres			Calculation of
696.			Death Rate 8,839.
			Birth Rate 9,208.

Mortality in any district is always adversely affected when there are more than 400 persons per square mile.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.—Heckmondwike is a Market Town and Parish, and has a Railway Station on the Bradford and Cleckheaton Branch of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway and another on the London and North Western Railway. The town is nine miles south-west of Leeds, nine east from Halifax, seven north-east from Huddersfield, and seven south-east from Bradford. It is in the Spenn Valley Parliamentary Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire. Heckmondwike is governed by an Urban District Council consisting of twelve members, and is supplied with water from works at Dunford Bridge, is lighted with gas from works belonging to the Heckmondwike and Liversedge Gas Company, and with electric light from a station in Bath Road belonging to the Urban District Council. Electric trams run through the town and connect it with Batley, Dewsbury, Cleckheaton, Hightown and Birkenshaw. From the last-named access is gained by tram to Bradford. The town possesses Public Baths, a Fire Station, Public Library, etc. The chief manufactures are carpets and rugs; there are also chemical works, a brewery, machine works and coal mines. Wool sorting is also practised. Two cattle fairs are held, one in May and one in November. There is a very good market held weekly on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The soil is principally clay-over sandstone, the coal measures underlying. There appears to be no particular occupation exercising an exceptionally adverse influence on the public health apart from dusty occupations and the danger of anthrax to workers amongst wool.

Parliamentary Voters.—The numbers for 1919 are: Parliamentary 4,063, and Local Government 3,994.

Rateable Value for Poor Rate £45,582 5s.; for District Rate £43,506 8s. 9d.; Total £89,088 13s. 9d. 1d. in £ produces approximately £371.

Marriages.—The Superintendent Registrar reports information unobtainable.

Poor Law Relief expended in Heckmondwike since 1911:—

1911	£284	14	0	1914	£446	0	9	1917	£364	7	10
1912	£305	8	0	1915	£421	15	11	1918	£474	3	0
1913	£370	6	6	1916	£427	5	3	1919	£569	5	0

Meteorology.—The prevailing wind is westerly.

Year.	Wet Days.	Rainfall.	Year.	Wet Days.	Rainfall.
1910	182	30.26ins.	1915	157	31.40ins.
1911	172	23.52ins.	1916	194	30.88ins.
1912	200	37.10ins.	1917	162	21.8 ins.
1913	166	23.98ins.	1918	150	19.8 ins.
1914	179	28.62ins.	1919	157	17.6 ins.

Hospital and Other Forms of Gratuitous Medical Relief, apart from the Poor Law, are obtained at Batley Hospital, Dewsbury Infirmary, and the Leeds and Bradford Infirmarys.

BIRTH and DEATH RATES SINCE 1910 IN HECKMONDWIKE.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.	
		Number	Rate.	Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate
1910	9,258	145	15.6	9	62	89	9.6
1911	9,017	166	18.4	27	162	148	16.4
1912	9,017	182	20.1	28	153	164	18.1
1913	9,100	218	23.9	27	123	155	17.0
1914	9,150	188	20.5	24	127	162	17.7
1915	8,846	184	20.8	23	125	177	20.1
1916	{ B. Rate, 9,341 D. Rate, 8,585	176	18.8	12	68	107	12.4
1917	{ B. Rate, 9,587 D. Rate, 8,600	133	13.8	18	135	158	18.3
1918	{ B. Rate, 8,884 D. Rate, 7,929	145	16.3	9	62	179	22.5
1919	{ B. Rate, 9,208 D. Rate, 8,839	155	16.8	12	77	146	16.5
1919—England and Wales		...	18.5		89		13.8
96 Great Towns including London			19.0		93		13.8
148 Smaller Towns		..	18.3		90		12.6
London		...	18.3		85		3.4

For comparative purposes Heckmondwike should be taken with the 96 Great Towns, for, although not possessing a population of 50,000 or over, the town—being part of the Heavy Woollen District—is intimately joined up to other towns which make the conditions such as prevail in the 96 Great Towns. During 1919, of the 146 deaths 28 were those of persons who died away from Heckmondwike but had at some time resided there. Many of them died in the Union Infirmary, having been admitted from the Heckmondwike Common Lodging House, and although the town is debited with these deaths they are often those of persons who have only actually lived in Heckmondwike during periods varying from a few days to as many hours. The number of such deaths transferred to Heckmondwike by the Registrar-General since 1911 is 213, or a yearly average of 23.6, which is a considerable factor towards increasing the annual figure for death rate.

Causes of Death in Heckmondwike during 1919, and a
Comparison with Previous Years since 1910.

	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	Total	%
Enteric Fever ...			7		3	6		9	3	2	31	
Small-pox ...		1	1	2	1			1			5	4.9
Measles ...			4	4		2		4			11	
Scarlet Fever ...		1	1	3	5	1		2	1		15	
Whooping Cough ...			1	1		2		2	30	12	53	3.6
Diphtheria ...			1	6							2	0.1
Influenza ...	2	1										
Erysipelas ...	3	10	7		8	11	6	7	7	8	33	7.3
Phthisis ...		2	3		1		1	1		2	14	
Tuberculous Meningitis ...		1	12	2	2	2		13	3	2	21	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	5	15		12	12				14	11	120	8.1
Cancer ...	6	1		1				3	2		7	0.4
Rheumatic Fever ...				1		1		2	1		8	0.5
Meningitis ...				1	1			16	21		168	11.4
Heart Disease ...	18	4	23	13	21	23	13	8	10	20	94	
Bronchitis ...	5	14	13	10	5	15	10	19	15	14	133	
Pneumonia ...	10		13	13	12	17	10	2	1	10	20	16.8
Other Respiratory Diseases...	1	1	3	1	2	2	5			2	18	
Diarrhoea, &c., ...	1	7		7	2					1	5	1.2
Appendicitis ...			1	1	1	1	1			2	10	0.3
Cirrhosis of Liver ...			1	4	2						1	0.7
Alcoholism ...												
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	3	4	5	7	4	5	9	7	4	50	3.4
Puerperal Fever ...			1		3	1			2		4	1.0
Parturition ...				3		2	1	8	2	6	11	4.2
Congenital Debility, &c., ...		8	12	11	9	2	3	2	4		63	1.1
Violence ...	1	3	5	3	6	3	2		2		27	0.3
Suicide ...			1		2	1		49		50	5	32.7
Other Defined Diseases ...	35	74	47	47	54	34	36	1	54	50	480	1.0
Diseases ill-defined or unknown		1		5	3	7					16	0.1
Anthrax ...		1									2	
Totals	89	148	164	155	162	156	110	158	179	146	1467	

The Birth Rate for 1919 (16.8) is slightly better than during the three previous years, although low, in common with neighbouring districts. The illegitimate birth rate since 1910 is given below:—

Year.	Illegitimate Births.	Rate per 1,000 births registered.	Year.	Illegitimate Births.	Rate per 1,000 births registered.
1910	5	34.4	1915	8	43.4
1911	8	48.1	1916	7	39.7
1912	8	43.9	1917	9	67.6
1913	8	36.6	1918	10	68.9
1914	11	58.5	1919	7	45.1

The General Death Rate for 1919 is 16.5, the lowest since 1912 with the exception of 1916. Had it not been for the Influenza epidemic the rate would have been considerably less. If reference is made to the table, shewing the deaths in Heckmondwike for the last ten years, it will be seen that a large proportion of these ought never to have taken place and that the general death rate might be reduced to a considerably lower figure than at present. The infectious diseases, including tuberculosis, all entirely preventable, caused 225 deaths, more than 15 per cent. Heart disease, frequently due to rheumatic fever and not infrequently the result of Syphilis, killed 168 persons, or about 11½ per cent. Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other diseases of the respiratory organs resulted in 247 deaths, or nearly 17 per cent. Nephritis and Bright's Disease caused 50 deaths, or about 3½ per cent. One per cent of deaths was that of mothers following confinement. 63 deaths, or 4.2 per cent., were certified as due to Congenital Debility, Premature Birth and allied conditions, a large proportion of which deaths are intimately connected with Syphilis. The infantile death rate of 77 per 1,000 births registered is satisfactory and compares very favourably with other similar areas.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.—Heckmondwike is a partner with Dewsbury in the ownership of the water supply, the undertaking being known as the Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Waterworks Board. The water is obtained from the gathering ground on the moors situated in the parish of Penistone about 18 miles away and is treated with lime at the reservoirs before distribution. Its quality is excellent and the supply constant. Particulars, including analytical reports, are given on Pages 10 and 11 of my

annual report for 1914. No case of lead poisoning due to the domestic water supply has come to my knowledge since I became Medical Officer of Health in 1910. The following analytical reports were submitted at a meeting of the Sanitary Committee on Monday, 1st March, 1915:—

City and County Analyst's Office,
Bradford, 17th February, 1915.

Analytical Report on 2 Samples of Water from the Dewsbury
and Heckmondwike Waterworks Received
February 10th, 1915.

Both these waters are of the highest organic purity, and as they are both very soft they are very well suited for drinking and domestic purposes.

No. 1 has a very appreciable action upon bright lead sheet and No. 2 only about one-sixth of the action of No. 1.

As the waters have been exposed to the influence of bright lead surface the amount of lead dissolved is very much greater than the quantity which would be taken up from old lead surface piping.

In our opinion No. 2 would not act appreciably upon old service piping, even after standing overnight, while No. 1 would have an appreciable and objectionable action.

The hardness of No. 2 has evidently been increased by about 1.7 degrees, which is very satisfactory.

In our opinion 2 grains of chalk should be quite sufficient to prevent plumbo-solvency.

Analytical Report upon 2 Samples of Water from Dewsbury
and Heckmondwike Waterworks.

Grains per Gallon:—				No. 1.	No. 2.
Total solid matters	...	...	...	6.0	8.0
Chlorine (combined)	...	...	...	.6	.7
Nitrites	...	...	...	None.	None.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	None.	None.
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	.0070	.0007
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	.0035	.0021
Lead	...	...	...	None.	None.
Total Hardness (Clarke's Scale)	...	...	...	2.3	4.0
Temporary ,,					
Permanent ,,					
Action on bright lead sheet after 24 hours'					
exposure	...	...	...	...	...
				$\frac{1}{4}$ th	1-25th

Analytical Report upon 2 Samples of Water from Dewsbury and Heckmondwike Waterworks.

Description:—					No. 1.	No. 2.
Grains per Gallon:—					Untreated.	Treated.
Total solid matters	...	...	...	...	6.00	8.00
Organic and Volatile matters	...	...	...	...	1.00	1.50
Mineral matters	...	...	...	...	5.00	6.50
Composition of Mineral Matters:—						
Lime Carbonate	...	...	...	...	.30	1.30
Lime Sulphate	...	...	...	...	1.10	2.08
Lime Nitrate	...	...	...	...	None.	None.
Magnesium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	None.	None.
Magnesium Sulphate	...	...	...	...	1.08	1.30
Sodium Chloride	...	...	...	...	1.00	1.16
Sodium Sulphate, &c.	...	...	...	...	1.00	.11
Sodium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	None.	None.
Iron and Alumina Oxides	...	...	...	...	.02	.25
Silica	...	...	...	...	.50	.30
					<hr/>	<hr/>
					5.00	6.50
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Hardness ,,	...	...	...	...	2.3	4.0
Temporary ,,	...	...	...	...
Permanent ,,	...	...	...	...
Acidity, calculated in terms of organic acids						
	...	...	...	...	.026	None.
Alkalinity, calculated in terms of Calcium Carbonate						
	...	...	...	...	None.	1.3

(Signed) F. W. RICHARDSON.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.—The West Riding of Yorkshire Rivers' Board is the responsible authority and exercises control. The Spen Beck is much polluted by dye water, trade effluent, etc.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Reference may be made to pages 11 and 12 of the Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1914. As no printed Annual Report has been published since 1915 the following extracts are taken from the Sanitary Committee's minutes for the sake of continuity:—

4th January, 1915:—The Clerk was instructed to write the Town Clerk of Dewsbury urging that particulars of the proposed scheme for the treatment of Sewage from the Borough at the Council's works should be submitted to this Committee as early as possible.

8th, March, 1915:—Resolved that the banks of the various plots be raised where necessary, and a portion of the embankment repaired.

29th March, 1915:—The Chairman, the Medical Officer of Health and the Sewage Works Manager reported on their visit of inspection to the Salford Sewage Disposal Works.

Resolved that a New Sprinkler be put down forthwith.

Resolved that specifications be prepared and tenders obtained for the construction of such Sprinkler.

31st May, 1915:—Surveyor submitted the Plan and Report on the new Sewage Scheme prepared jointly by the Surveyors of Dewsbury and Heckmondwike, when the consideration of the matter was deferred until the next meeting of the committee.

21st June, 1915:—Messrs. Wilby, Gledhill and B. Hepworth were appointed a Sub-committee to consider and report as to whether any saving in the annual cost of maintaining the Works can be effected.

Owing to absence, through illness, of the Surveyor the consideration of the Report on the proposed New Sewage Scheme was deferred until the next Meeting.

29th January, 1917:—Letter read from the Chief Inspector to the Rivers Board complaining of an unsatisfactory effluent being discharged to the stream, when the Sewage Farm Manager reported that he had since seen the Inspector and had fully explained to him the difficulties under which he was working, and that his explanation had been accepted by the Inspector.

26th March, 1917:—Sewage Farm Manager having reported on the condition of the Sprinklers, it was resolved that Tenders be obtained for cleaning and painting the same.

10th September, 1917:—The Chairman reported on the condition of the Sewage Works and Land which had that day been inspected by the Committee, when it was moved, seconded and resolved that full discussion of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Council; that in the meantime a full report be prepared, a copy of which be forwarded to the Sewage Works Manager and that he be asked to attend the meeting and give some explanation.

25th February, 1918:—Sub-Committee reported the result of their investigations at the Sewage Works, and that the Manager had been given notice to terminate his engagement on the 1st March next, when it was resolved that Batley Whitworth be appointed the Working Manager under the supervision of the Surveyor.

25th March, 1918:—Surveyor reported upon the present condition of the Sewage Farm, and was requested to make a periodical report on the condition and working of the Sewage Farm.

22nd April, 1918:—Surveyor reported on the work completed at the Sewage Farm. It was resolved that the Members of this Committee visit the Sewage Farm at least once every three months.

17th June, 1918:—Surveyor reported the work at the Sewage Farm as satisfactory.

12th Aug., 1918:—Resolved that a Crossley Gas Engine for the Sewage Works be purchased from Messrs. Sharrock & Co., of Leeds.

Surveyor reported on the condition of the Sewage Farm, when it was resolved that the Committee meet at the Farm on the 20th inst.

After viewing the works the Committee expressed their appreciation of the improvement made since their last visit. The state of the growing crops was also considered satisfactory.

5th May, 1919:—Sewage Farm Sub-Committee appointed.

28th July, 1919:—Surveyor submitted a letter from the Sewage Farm Manager tendering his resignation of that position.

20th October, 1919:—Clerk submitted a letter from the Town Clerk of Dewsbury with reference to the treatment of Ravensthorpe Sewage at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, when it was resolved that the Surveyor take up the matter with Mr. Dearden, the Engineer for Dewsbury Corporation.

15th December, 1919:—Clerk instructed to convene a Special Meeting of this Committee to meet representatives of Dewsbury Corporation to take up with them negotiations as to the treatment of Sewage from Ravensthorpe at Heckmondwike Sewage Works, which were proceeding in 1914-15 and were broken off by the war.

Closet Accommodation.—As there has been no printed Annual Report since 1915 particulars are given for the last four years:—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
No. of Privies with Open Middens	23	23	23	23
No. of Pail or Tub Closets ...	30	30	30	28
No. of Privies with Covered Middens ...	50	50	50	48
No. of Water Closets ...	1600	1600	1602	1631
No. of Privies re-constructed:—				
(a) as W.C.'s ...	9	None	None	4
(b) other ...	None	None	None	None

No. of additional closets provided for old property:—

(a) W.C.'s	...	...	1	None	2	9
(b) other	...	...	None	None	None	None

No. of Closets constructed for new houses:—

(a) W.C.'s	...	...	None	None	None	4
(b) other	...	...	None	None	None	None

Scavenging.—This is performed by the Council's own staff. The Destructor is of the Horsfall type, back feed, with two cells and able to deal with all refuse carted to it.

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Loads of refuse disposed of at:—				
(a) Destructor	3901	2503	2637	3105
(b) Tips	549	646	894	987
(c) Taken by farmers	None	None	None	None
Total annual cost	£968	£1017	£1228	£1851
Total Metal Bins	705	703	705	711

Sanitary Inspections of District.—

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Total No. of Inspections re				
Nuisances	189	190	189	229
Informal Notices served	76	47	31	52
Informal Notices complied with	61	43	28	49
Statutory Notices served	4	None	2	4
Statutory Notices complied with	3	None	None	2
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at				
close of	5	2	5	5
Total No. of Nuisances reported				
during	11	None	2	4
Total No. of Nuisances abated	64	43	30	51
Legal Proceedings	1	None	None	None

The following nuisances were found on inspection:—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
Choked W.C.'s	25	8	8
Manure Accumulations	None	2	29
Defective and Stopped Drains	6	2	3
Defective Privies and Pail Closets	2	2	10
Defective Sink Waste	2	None	1
Defective Water Supply	None	None	2
Insanitary Yards	1	1	2
Defective Spouts and Damp Walls	7	None	2
Nuisances from keeping Animals	1	None	None
Want of Metal Bins	3	8	None
Various	None	10	None

No report from Inspector for 1916.

Visits to Premises.—

	1917.	1918.	1919.
Bakehouses	56	61	47
Cowsheds	35	31	26
Offensive Trades	25	33	24
Slaughterhouses	84	64	50
Common Lodging Houses	13	14	12
Visits Infectious Houses	7	17	29
Disinfections	20	26	35

No report from Inspector for 1916.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.—There is one in Church Street providing accommodation for 37 males. Twelve rooms are set apart for married couples or females, and four single rooms for either males or females. The general condition is good although difficulties have arisen through change of tenancy and valuation. A list of lodgers is furnished daily as required by Sec 83, Public Health Act, 1875. The second common lodging house was discontinued as such on the death of the proprietor in 1916.

Offensive Trades.—Fat rendering and Tripe boiling 2, Gut scraping 1, and Fellmonger 1. The bye-laws are observed and the conditions reasonable.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—None in the Urban District.

Other Sanitary Conditions Requiring Notice.—The principal are regular and frequent inspection of dwelling houses for the purpose of enforcing cleanliness, frequent removal of manure accumulations, and strict supervision over all places where food is prepared.

Schools.—The West Riding County Council is responsible for Medical Inspection of scholars. During 1919 I advised the Heckmondwike Council to call upon the local Education Committee to close schools as follows:—

Date.	School.	Reason.	Period of Closure.
October 6th, 1919.	Central Infants'	Mumps	October 6th to 20th, 1919.
December 18th, 1919.	All the Infants' Schools	Measles	December 18th to end of Xmas holidays.

In the case of St. Patrick's Infant School the Head Mistress did not comply with the Council's request and this School remained open. The Council communicated with the West Riding Education Committee on the subject.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.—A number of milk sellers live outside Heckmondwike but sell milk within the Urban District. The following applies only to Heckmondwike: —

	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.
Cowsheds	6	8	8	9
Milch Cows (approx. number)	37	50	50	62
Cowkeepers	2	3	3	4
Cowkeepers who are also Milk Purveyors	None	2	2	3
Milk Purveyors only	16	7	7	7
Number of inspections ...	19	35	31	26

All are registered. The general condition of the cowsheds is fair but there is need for more cubic space for the cattle and more lighting and ventilation is necessary. Samples of milk for analysis are taken by the County Council. The Heckmondwike Council was not called upon to take any legal proceedings for milk adulteration. The Heckmondwike Council appointed Mr. George Whitehead, M.R.C.V.S., as Veterinary Inspector of dairy cattle in 1918, and the following is his report:—

Bank Foot House,
Batley,
Dec. 31st, 1919.

To Dr. Pearce,
Medical Officer of Health,
Urban Council of Heckmondwike.

I have pleasure in submitting my report of the inspection of the 62 Milch Cows in the above Urban area during the months of February, May, August and November, 1919. The cows are in a satisfactory condition and I would especially mention the 26 cows at Stubley Farm, a great credit to the owner and the district.

I detected no case of Tuberculosis or Tuberculous Udder.

Yours faithfully,

GEO. WHITEHEAD, M.R.C.V.S.,
Veterinary Surgeon.

During April, 1918, a milk depot was opened, the amount distributed being about 300 gallons weekly. It was closed in the autumn of 1919, the weekly amount of milk sold having dropped to approximately 60 gallons. Difficulty in obtaining delivery from the wholesalers was given as the cause.

Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917.—Duties performed by County Council.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.—This Order was adopted by the Council in October, 1918, the basis being 6/6 per head per family per week after deducting rent from total income. If below 6/6 per head the benefits are available. During 1918 three mothers received 29lbs. of dried milk free. For 1919 the figures are 110lbs. supplied to three mothers at a cost of £10 10s. 8d., of which 50% can be obtained from the Ministry of Health on application.

Unsound Food.—Surrenders were as follows:—

1916	Unsound Fish	7lbs.
1917	Nil	Nil
1918	Tubercular Beef	2100lbs.
1919	Tubercular Beef	740lbs.
	Blown Tinned Ox Tongues	18lbs.
	Unsound Tripe	260lbs.

Bakehouses.—There are seven on the register. The condition of some is better than others but generally speaking there is great room for increased cleanliness of these premises.

Slaughterhouses.—There are six, of which one is licensed annually (that of the Co-operative Society) and five claim to be registered. The Co-operative Slaughterhouse, where practically all slaughtering has taken place during 1919, is a building on modern lines, the others are mostly structurally unsuitable.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.—Their administration is in the hands of the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified.				NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.		NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										Total Cases re-moved to Hospital			
						At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							65 and upwards.					
1916	1917	1918	1919				Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.		1919	1918	1917	1916		
8	111	124	138	Measles	...	138	4	56	78										
1	2	1	1	G. Measles	...	1		1	1										
				Small-Pox	...														
				Cholera, (C) Plague (P)	...														
				Pneumonia	...	3													
9	6	10	6	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	6		2	2										
5		2	4	Erysipelas	..	4		2	2								4		
11	4	7	28	Scarlet Fever	...	28		6	17								9		
				Typhus Fever	...														
3	2			Enteric Fever	...												3		
				Relapsing Fever (R)	...														
				Continued Fever (C)	...														
				Puerperal Fever	...														
				Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...														
				Poliomyelitis	...	5	5												
3	1	2	5	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	9		2	1			2					5		
12	9	13	9	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	2		2											
1		6	2	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...														
53	135	167	196	Totals	...	196	9	66	99	9	9	2	2	36	20	15	21		

Zymotic Diseases.—During 1919 two deaths were caused from this group of diseases, Measles being responsible. It is highly satisfactory to be able to say that not one death was due to Diarrhoea amongst infants. This has been the case since 1914. I think I can fairly congratulate the Council on this fact which is largely due to the improvements made in the sanitation of the district and to the careful supervision of the infants, and advice given as to feeding them by the Council's Health Visitor acting through the Medical Officer of Health. That in a busy industrial district like this where many mothers go out to work there should be no death from Zymotic Enteritis for six years is most encouraging. The death appearing in the Tables as due to Enteritis was that of a Heckmondwike infant who was taken to Bradford, contracted the disease and died there.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Year.	Heckmondwike.	Year.	Heckmondwike.
1900	0.72	1910	Nil
1901	1.37	1911	0.9
1902	1.37	1912	1.4
1903	1.16	1913	1.4
1904	1.79	1914	1.2
1905	1.90	1915	1.0
1906	1.60	1916	0.1
1907	0.31	1917	1.8
1908	0.74	1918	0.5
1909	0.74	1919	0.3

Infectious Diseases Generally.—For the last three years there has been a continuous epidemic of Measles present. This is unusual, the disease generally appearing in waves every two or three years and then subsiding. Two deaths were caused by it during 1919. The Council, acting on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health, have on more than one occasion endeavoured to make arrangements with the Dewsbury Joint Hospital Board for the admission to the Isolation Hospital of patients suffering from Measles where the home conditions are of such a nature as to necessitate removal of the patient but the Board have refused the request on each occasion. There is no suggestion that all or many cases of Measles should be sent to hospital but only those which are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, necessitous cases. No expenditure on structural additions or alterations is in the least degree necessary, it being purely a question of administration. All known cases are promptly visited and appropriate advice is given verbally and by printed pamphlet. Diphtheria has caused little trouble, strict supervision over school contacts being exercised, none being allowed to return until at

least two successive negative swabs, taken at intervals of at least one week, have been obtained. Diphtheria antitoxin is provided by the Council free of charge to practitioners upon request. Scarlet Fever was more in evidence than in previous years but the type of case was extremely mild often not being notified until peeling had commenced. Gossiping and frequenting infected houses by neighbours had much to do with the spread. No return cases occurred. Pneumonia was only notified three times although ten deaths were certified as due to the disease. Doctors do not always comply with the Regulations. I have had to communicate with some on more than one occasion respecting failure to notify. The Council possess no facilities for offering hospital accommodation to pneumonia patients owing to the Joint Hospital Board's refusal to admit cases.

Tuberculosis.—Nine cases of pulmonary and two other forms of the disease were notified. Three of the patients were sent to a Sanatorium. As an example of the non-observance of the Tuberculosis Regulations by medical practitioners under which notification is compulsory, it may be pointed out that, of the nine patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, death had taken place in three instances before notification of the case to the Medical Officer of Health, and this was only then done after a communication respecting failure to notify had been sent to the doctors concerned. In three instances death occurred in less than one month and in one instance under six months after notification. Treatment is in the hands of the West Riding County Council. Prevention is the proper way to overcome the disease. The three main lines of attack are (1) Education of the people in the elementary laws of hygiene, the necessity of fresh air and sunlight (2) improved housing conditions (3) elimination of tubercular meat and milk from the ordinary food supplies. The usual procedure on the part of the local authority as required by the Regulations is followed in each case notified. Advice is given verbally and by printed pamphlet. Inspection of the patient's dwelling and surroundings is carried out and, where necessary, suitable action taken.

Influenza was epidemic until the end of March, causing 12 deaths. A report upon the epidemic was compiled by the Medical Officer and sent to the Local Government Board, copies being also furnished to the members of the Council at that time.

Venereal Disease treatment is in the hands of the County Council. Arrangements are at present being made by the Heckmondwike Council for propaganda work in the district.

Smallpox has not visited us, but on several occasions contacts have been kept under observation.

Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by Dr. Sutherland at the County Hall, Wakefield. Outfits are kept at the Council Offices, Heckmondwike, and delivered to practitioners upon request. The following specimens from Heckmondwike were examined during the year ending 31st December, 1919: Widal 2, Sputa 14, Diphtheria 22, Other 2, Total 40.

Disinfection of premises was performed on 37 occasions. The Council does not possess a steam disinfecter. Application was made by the Council to the Local Government Board in 1914 to borrow money for the erection of a contact station and the installation of a modern steam disinfecter upon ground at the Council's depot in Beck Lane. Steam would have always been available from the destructor boiler. The enquiry was held on June 18th, 1914. The Council's application was not granted on the ground that the nearest point from a dwelling house would have been 38 feet as against 40 feet, the usual distance. Particulars are given on page 34 of the Medical Officer's Report for 1914.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

1919. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1 to 2 Weeks.	2 to 3 Weeks.	3 to 4 Weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 Weeks & under 3 Months	3 Months & under 6 Months	6 Months & under 9 Months	9 Months & under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
ALL CAUSES.	{ Certified + Uncertified	2	2	1	1	6	4			2	12
{ Small Pox	...										
{ Chicken Pox	...										
{ Measles	...										
{ Scarlet Fever	...										
{ Whooping Cough	...										
{ Diphtheria and Croup	...										
{ Erysipelas	...										
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	...										
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	...										
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	...										
{ Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)	...										
{ Convulsions	...						1				1
{ Laryngitis	...										
{ Bronchitis	...				1	1	1				2
{ Pneumonia (all forms)	...						1		1		2
{ Diarrhoea	...										
{ Enteritis	...										
{ Gastritis	...						1				1
{ Syphilis	...										
{ Rickets	...										
{ Suffocation, overlying	...										
{ Injury at Birth	...										
{ Atelectasis	...										
{ Congenital Malformations	...	1				1					1
{ Premature Birth	...	1	2	1		4				1	4
{ Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...										1
{ Other Causes	...										
TOTAL		2	2	1	1	6	4			2	12

Nett Births in the year—legitimate, 148.
illegitimate, 7.

Nett Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants, 10.
illegitimate infants, 2.

COMPARISON BETWEEN DEATH RATES OF LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS SINCE 1910.

Year.	Deaths of illegitimate infants	Death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 births registered.	Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 births registered.
1910	Nil	Nil	64.2
1911	4	500.0	145.5
1912	2	250.0	149.3
1913	2	250.0	119.0
1914	1	90.9	129.9
1915	4	500.0	107.9
1916	Nil	Nil	71.0
1917	Nil	Nil	145.1
1918	1	100.0	59.7
1919	2	285.7	67.5

The infant mortality rate for Heckmondwike for 1919 was 77 per 1,000 births registered. This is very satisfactory, being considerably below that of England and Wales, which was 89. It is, however, higher than 1918, when it was 62. An analysis of the causes of the infantile deaths shews that exactly half of them—Convulsions, Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Enteritis—were entirely preventable and should not have occurred. The death from Enteritis, as previously mentioned, was that of an infant born in Heckmondwike but taken on a visit to Bradford when a month old, where it contracted the disease and died. The remaining deaths—Congenital Malformation, Premature Birth, and Marasmus—were caused by conditions acting upon the infants before birth, of which Syphilis was most probably the principal.

The Council possesses a Health Visitor who is entirely responsible to them through the Medical Officer of Health, under whose direction and supervision she performs her duties. A portion of time is devoted to the work of School Nurse, for which the Cuntty Council pays £45 yearly to the Heckmondwike Council. There was a change of Health Visitor during the year which, to a certain extent, held up the work, but when all the difficulties which arose are taken into account the result of the year's working was undoubtedly good.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is open each Thursday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.0 at the Council Offices, where infants are weighed and advice given on feeding, clothing and rearing by the Health Visitor. The Medical Officer is in attendance to see mothers and infants where necessary. The Heckmondwike Nursing Association, a voluntary band of ladies, under-

takes the selling of suitable garments, dried milk, Virol, etc., whilst providing tea and biscuits weekly for the mothers. These services are of value, the work of the ladies being much appreciated.

The midwives practising in Heckmondwike are under the supervision of the County Council.

The Nursing Association is at present establishing a Maternity Home which should be of great use to the inhabitants. The Council is not directly concerned, although well disposed towards the project. The building to be used is a house purchased by a former Chairman of the Council (Mr. R. L. Bowling) and handed over to the Nursing Association, rent free, for five years.

Work of the Health Visitor.—Births notified: Live Births 160, Stillbirths 10, Total 170; by Midwives 30, by Doctors and Parents 140. Births registered: Legitimate 148, Illegitimate 7, Total 155. Infants under 12 months: 1st visits 170, re-visits 489, Total 659. Children 1 to 5 years: Total visits 535. Visits to Ophthalmia Neonatorum 22, Measles 247, Pneumonia 5, Tuberculosis 104, Stillbirths 11, Other 43. Attendance at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre weekly, performance of duties as School Nurse, etc.

A request was made by the Medical Officer to the proprietors of Picture Palaces to exclude from evening performances all women with infants in arms. It was at once complied with.

Puerperal Fever and Poliomyelitis were not notified during the year. Whooping Cough was hardly ever met with. Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified on five occasions. Thirty-two visits were made to the cases, and all recovered without permanent defect. Several slight cases were discovered by the Health Visitor which had not been notified by the doctors in attendance as is required by the Regulations.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Hospital Accommodation for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever is provided at the Dewsbury Joint Isolation Hospital, in which Heckmondwike is a partner. The hospital is situated at Earlsheaton and is under the medical superintendence of a general practitioner, resident in Dewsbury. The Board has twice refused the request of the Heckmondwike Council to admit necessitous cases of Measles and Pneumonia. Patients admitted from Heckmondwike during 1919 were Scarlet Fever 28, Diphtheria 5.

Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws.—The following are in force within the Urban District: Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted 1902; Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, adopted 1908; Notification of Births Act, 1907, adopted 1909;

Bye-laws respecting New Streets and Buildings, Nuisances, Common Lodging-houses, Offensive Trades, Hackney Carriages, all adopted 1889. Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order were approved by the Local Government Board and adopted by the Council during 1912. The Council possesses additional Sanitary Powers by virtue of portions of the Heckmondwike Improvement Act, 1905.

Smoke Nuisances are prevalent, as in neighbouring manufacturing districts. No legal proceedings were taken.

Rag Flock Act.—No Report from Inspector.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

1. Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspec- tions	No. of Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries).	17	4	None.
Workshops (including Workshops ,,)	48	6	None.
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	None.	None.	None.
Totals	65	10	None.

2. Defects Found

in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

The only action taken was in respect of defective sanitary accommodation in one instance, which was remedied.

3. Home Work.

Two lists in respect of two workmen employed as Out-Workers at Boot repairing have been registered twice yearly.

4. Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (S.131) at the end of the Year.

Plasterers 2, Rag Sorting 21, Boot Repairing 6, Hairdressers 8, Breadmaking 7, Photographers 1, Millinery and Dressmaking 8, Tailoring 5, Waste Sorting 2, Plumbing and Electricians 8, Joiners, Cabinet Makers, Woodcarvers and Upholsterers 6, Tinplate Working 2, Watch Repairing 3, Painters 5, Printers and Bookbinders 1, Rug Making 1, Dyers and Cleaners 1, Saddlery 3, Basket Making 1, Various 13, Total 104.

5. Other Matters.

The only action taken under this heading was in respect of a matter notified by H.M. Inspector.

HOUSING.

Tenements in the occupation of Private Families in Heckmondwike. Census, 1911.

	No. of Rooms per Tenement.	NUMBER OF PERSONS IN PRIVATE FAMILIES IN HECKMONDWIKE.												Total No. of Private Families.	Population in Private Families.
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Total Population:---	1	26	14	3	1		1							45	73
1901, 9459; 1911, 9016.	2	56	175	156	104	61	32	30	3	1	3			621	2060
Total families or separate	3	14	118	173	132	109	50	37	13	6	4	2		658	2621
occupiers, private or other:	4	8	67	82	70	66	37	17	16	8	4	2	1	378	1613
1901, 2197; 1911, 2269.	5	7	42	73	73	63	50	29	19	3	2	2		363	1641
Tenements with more than	6		10	17	25	16	6	8	5	2			1	90	413
two occupants per room:	7		3	10	10	8	5		2	2		1		41	191
No. 214, Population 1436.	8	1	2	5	5	7	3	4	2	1				30	146
Proportion per cent to popu-	9		2	5	3	6		4	1					21	97
lation in private families, 16.1.	10			5	3	3	2		3	1				17	87
and up-wards															
Totals ...		112	433	529	426	339	186	129	64	24	13	7	2	2264	8942

Existing dwelling houses in district, December 31st, 1919, 2,375, of which 2,297 may be described as of the artisan type. It is estimated that approximately 50 houses intended for one family only are now occupied (without having been specially adapted) by two or more families.

The 2,375 houses referred to above are as follows:—

Type of House.	No. of Houses.	Weekly Rent.
(a) Houses with Living Room, Scullery and two Bedrooms	442	3/6
(b) Living Room, Scullery and three Bedrooms	251	3/6 to 3/9
(c) Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and two Bedrooms ...	49	4/-
(d) Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and three Bedrooms ...	99	5/6 to 6/-
(e) Parlour, Living Room, Scullery and four Bedrooms ...	45	6/- to 7/-
(f) Blocks of Tenements ...	—	
(g) Other Working Class Dwellings (specifying)	110	4/- to 5/-
(h) Living Room and one Bedroom	678	2/3 to 2/9
(i) Living Room and two Bedrooms	522	2/9 to 3/3
(j) Living Room, Scullery and one Bedroom	37	2/6 to 2/9
(k) Living Room	33	1/6 to 2/-
(l) Living Room and three Bedrooms	29	3/-
(m) Large Houses not included in above	80	
	<hr/> 2375 <hr/>	

The following Table which is extracted from the Census Returns for 1911 shows the position in Heckmondwike at that date :—

1,	1911.										
	1901	BUILDINGS USED AS DWELLINGS.									
		2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
	Total.	Total (cds. 4-11).	Ordinary Dwelling-Houses.	Blocks of Flats.	Shops.	Hotels, Inns, and Public Houses.	Offices, Warehouses, Workshops, Factories.	Institutions.	Others.	Vessels, Sheds, and Vagrants, &c.	Separate Flats, (inc. in col. 5).
Number Inhabited.	2193	2263	2142		87	25	3	1	5		
Separate Occupiers.	2197	2269	2146		87	25	3	1	5	2	
Population.	9459	9016	8471		344	114	12	51	19	5	
Uninhabited.	140	191	190		1						
Being Built.	11	6	6								

Buildings not used as Dwellings.							
Kind of Building.							No.
Places of Worship	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Government and Municipal Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	116
Offices	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Warehouses, Workshops, Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	192
Theatres and other Places of Amusement	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Between 1912 and 1919 25 houses were erected. None were built during 1916 to 1918, but in 1919 four were completed and two partly so by a firm of manufacturers for their own workers.

CLOSING ORDERS, &c., made under Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Situation	Date of Representation to Sanitary Com. by M.O.H.	Date of Closing Order.	Date of Determining Order	Date of Demolition Order.	Remarks
34, 34A, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, Milton Square	Nov. 27th, 1911	Dec. 7th, 1911	None made	None made	Repaired and used as rag warehouse
1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, Royie Fold	Jan. 22nd, 1912	Feb. 5th, 1912	None made	None made	1, 3, & 5 used as storerooms others standing empty with doors & windows boarded up
4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, Cook Lane	Feb. 19th, 1912	None made	None made	None made	4, 6, 8, 10 & 12 were demolished by owner, remainder repaired and used as joinery works
14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Milton Square	March 18th, 1912	June 24th, 1912	For No. 14 July 7th, 1913	None made	14, made fit for habitation, 15, 16, 17, 18, converted into warehouse
11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, Croft Street	March 18th, 1912	June 24th, 1912	11 to 19, April 28th, 1913 23 to 41, July 9th, 1913 21, Oct. 27th, 1913	None made	Rendered fit for habitation
20, Walkley Lane	None made	None made	None made	None made	Closed by owner but relet by him 1916
13, Carr Street	Oct. 28th, 1912	Nov. 11th, 1912	None made	None made	Used as storeroom
29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, Upper George Street	April 21st, 1913	April 28th, 1913	None made	None made	Rendered fit for habitation and tenanted
27 and 29, Albion Street	Dec. 8th, 1913	Dec. 22nd, 1913	None made	None made	Demolished by owner
6 and 8, Walkley Lane	May 25th, 1914	June 8th, 1914	None made	Feb. 15th, 1915	Outstanding Dec 31st, 1919
123, 125, 127, 129, 131, High Street	July 20th, 1914	July 27th, 1914	None made	Feb. 15th, 1915	Demolished by owner
134, Brighton Street	None made	None made	None made	None made	Closed by owner, 1914, but relet by him 1917
6, Anthony Square	June 21st, 1915	July 5th, 1915	None made	None made	Closed by owner

The above was the position on December 31st, 1919.

There is scarcity of houses, and overcrowding, in common with neighbouring districts. The principal cause of overcrowding is house scarcity, large families and keeping of lodgers, who are sometimes relatives, and often younger members of the same family with their new wives or husbands.

The Housing Inspector is Mr. J. Saville, who is also Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

During the year the Council has been in negotiation for two sites to be used for building dwelling houses (a) the Stubbley Farm estate (b) New North Road, each about five acres, providing accommodation for some 120 houses. Formalities were not completed at the close of 1919.

The majority of houses in Heckmondwike are of the working class dwelling type, an appreciable number being old property. At present it is extremely difficult, verging on the impossible, to carry out the requirements of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, because (a) there is much difficulty in engaging contractors who will carry out repairs, (b) the owners of property are often financially unable to do their part owing to the rent restrictions and the high charges for repairs. It is very easy to incur an expenditure which will amount to several years' rent for having comparatively trifling repairs done.

Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1909:—

	Years			
	1919.	1918.	1917.	1916.
Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Section	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	51
Number of dwelling houses which were considered to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Number of dwelling houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	24

Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919: Nil.

Closing Orders: See previous table.

Demolition Orders: Ditto.

In closing this report I desire to express to the members of the Council my appreciation of the manner in which they have received and considered my recommendations during the ten years I have been Medical Officer of Health. It has been a pleasure to be associated during this period with a Council which has, at all times, endeavoured to take such action as will result in improving the sanitation of the district, and I trust this will continue to be the case.

